

# PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 25, 2007



EDITOR'S NOTE: Two formats of information have been provided below for our upcoming event – the outline format to accommodate Calendar/Community Bulletin Boards and a more fleshed-out version for general news stories.

You can conveniently download the text at our News Web page, [wsd.dli.mt.gov/local/livingston/news/news\\_index.asp](http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/local/livingston/news/news_index.asp). There you will find links to a list of our most recent press releases. Questions about downloading? Call Skip Shiver, Web site coordinator, at 406-222-8902.

## CALENDAR FORMAT

**WHAT:** Livingston Job Fest 2007

**WHEN:** 2:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 6

**WHERE:** Livingston Civic Center

**COST:** See text in story for details

**CONTACT INFO:** Gail Habener, 406-222-8904 e-mail: [ghabener@mt.gov](mailto:ghabener@mt.gov)

## NEWS STORY FORMAT

### Tri-County Job Fest Responding to Employer Recruiting Woes

Area businesses are eagerly signing up for this year's 2007 Tri-County Job Fest being hosted by the Livingston Job Service Workforce Center. The Second Annual Tri-County Job Fest is taking place on Wednesday, June 6, 2007 from 2:30p.m.-6:30p.m. at the Livingston Civic Center near Sacajawea Park in Livingston, Montana.

Last year, the Job Fest drew over 30 employers and more than 200 job seekers. This year's event will again be open for employers to set up display booths where they will meet with persons looking for jobs and careers. The event is free and open to the public.

"The Tri-County Job Fest was started last year in response to the growing needs of our area employers. Job Service wanted to take a more proactive approach to the difficulties that businesses are having with locating people to fill jobs," said Al Maurillo, Manager of the Livingston and Bozeman Job Service Workforce Centers for the Montana Department of Labor & Industry.

With state and local unemployment figures continuing to rank at below the national average, many employers in Livingston and surrounding communities are finding it tough to find and hire new workers. According to the latest statistics provided by the Montana Research and Analysis Bureau, Park County's non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March, 2007 was placed at 2.8%. Data also showed Park

County having a total county-wide labor force of 8,997 persons for the same time period. Those numbers reflect closely with a March 2007 Research & Analysis Bureau publication article written by Montana Economist Tyler Turner and Brad Eldredge, Ph.D., Chief Economist for the Montana Research & Analysis Bureau.

In the article titled, "Help Wanted: A Look at Labor Force Participation in Montana", it notes that Montana has experienced a tightening labor market over the past year and a half. The article goes further to say that evidence suggests that current demand is outstripping the supply of participating workers. Montana's unemployment rate has been below the 4.5% threshold since May 2003 and has been below 4.0% since September 2005.

"With a shortfall of workers having the potential to negatively affect the local economy, we felt that developing a platform like the Job Fest was a good way to offer solutions for employers," said Maurillo. "Last year's Job Fest was a real success and with all of the active support for this event, it's a great way to bring people together and benefit the entire community."

Job seekers planning to attend the event are encouraged to come prepared to apply for jobs, interview and show off their talents. "That means showing up properly dressed and having a résumé or an application to share with employers," said Maurillo. "There will be something for everyone. Anyone who is looking to find a job, change occupations, or expand their horizons, will find a good deal of opportunity presented to them at this event."

The Tri-County Job Fest will feature job and career opportunities from some of the area's leading employers. Some of the participating local employers will include Printing for Less, Livingston Health Care, Counterpoint, Albertsons, Pamida, Industrial Towel and many others. Participating regional and national employers interested in hiring local area residents will include the Montana Highway Patrol, Sky West Airlines and the Union Pacific Railroad.

"When you think of the numerous advantages and opportunities that can be developed at this one event, you can easily see the savings in time, energy and expense that can be realized by spending a few hours at the Job Fest," said Maurillo.

Employers wishing to participate in this year's event are encouraged to contact the Livingston Job Service Workforce Center at (406) 222-0520 as soon as possible to sign up and reserve a table. Space is limited and available slots are filling up quickly. The fee for a display booth is \$25.00 for those employers that sign up before May 15th.

For further details and updates about the Livingston Job Fest, please contact the Livingston Job Service Workforce Center at (406) 222-0520 or visit them on the web at: <http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/local/livingston/> .

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